

***Pisidium maasseni* n. sp., a new species from Lake Prespa, Yugoslavia
(Bivalvia, Sphaeriidae)**

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Pisidium maasseni n. sp. is described from abundant material from Lake Prespa (Prespansko Jezero) in southern Yugoslavia. A noticeably compressed shell with flat beaks and a regular, dense striation distinguishes the new taxon from the other European species.

Key words: Bivalvia, Sphaeriidae, *Pisidium*, taxonomy, Yugoslavia.

Mr. W.J.M. Maassen (Duivendrecht, The Netherlands) some time ago discovered a new species of *Pisidium*, which is described below.

***Pisidium maasseni* n. sp. (figs. 1-4)**

Diagnosis. — Distinct from the other European species of the genus by the combination of three features viz., a compressed shell, flat beaks and a regular, dense striation.

Description. — Shell subpentagonal, subtransparent, compressed (convexity index, C.i. = 100D: 2H = 25; D = diameter, H = height of shell), upper margin relatively short, more arched than the lower margin. Beaks submedian, flat, hardly protruding. Periostracum glossy, pale yellow. Sculpture: regular and dense striation, 12 striae on ½ mm on the lower part of the shell; the striae around the beaks are slightly accentuated; nepionic shell with faint concentric lines. Adductor muscle impressions visible exteriorly; the oval anterior clearly higher inserted than the somewhat triangular posterior one. No shell-pores visible.

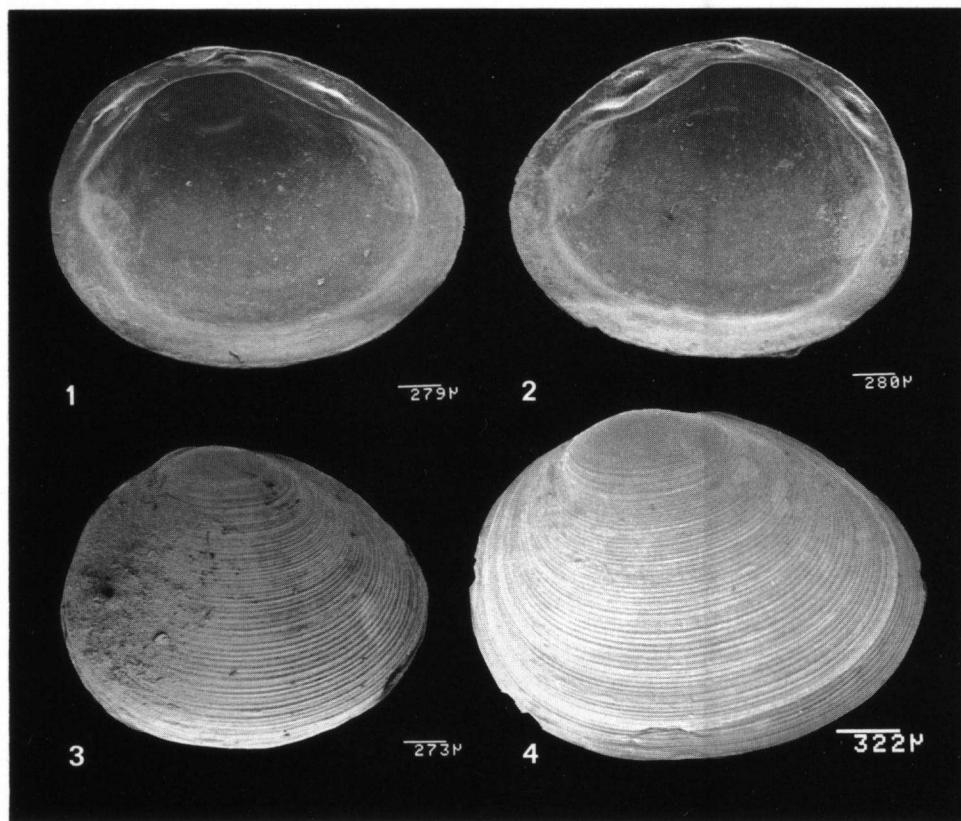
Measurements holotype: L (= length) 2.2, H 1.65, D 0.85 mm. The holotype, which is a closed shell, is individually recognizable by a ½ mm long scar on the upper posterior side of the left valve, caused by some outward agency.

Hinge (of paratypes). — Relatively strong and long. Laterals well developed. Cardinals in left valve short, nearly straight, C4 obliquely behind C2; cardinal of right valve (C3) slightly curved, posteriorly bifid. Ligament-pit short, about one sixth of shell-length, occupying half the width of the hinge-plate in its central part.

Etymology. — Dedicated to W.J.M. Maassen, an active member of the Netherlands Malacological Society, who made several successful collecting trips to the Balkan.

Types.¹ — Holotype ZMA/K 21302a; paratypes ZMA/K 21302b, RMNH, SMF 192903/5, and Zoological Institute Warsaw, as well as in the private collections of W.J.M. Maassen (Duivendrecht) and Dr. C. Meier-Brook (Tübingen), respectively.

¹ Abbreviations: RMNH = Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden; SMF = Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main; ZMA/K = Zoologisch Museum, Amsterdam (J.G.J. Kuiper collection).



Figs. 1-4. *Pisidium maasseni* n. sp., Lake Prespa. 1, Left valve, inside; 2, right valve, inside (in both specimens the beaks are not visible); 3, right valve exterior, with muddy incrustation on the posterior side; 4, right valve with spaced striae around the beak (Photographs by Mr. R.G. Moolenbeek of ZMA).

Distribution. *P. maasseni* is only known from Lake Prespa (Prespansko Jezero) in southern Yugoslavia. In 1976 Mr. Maassen collected several hundreds of fresh shells and single valves along the shore at three different points viz., 3 km S. of Asamati (type locality, collecting date 19 May 1976), 3 km N. of Otesevo, and 1 km N. of Carina. H. Schütt, 1973, collected this species in the littoral near Otesevo; P.L. Reischütz, August 1979, near Otesevo; E. Neubert, 23 September 1984, in 3 m depth near Carina; D.T. Holyoak & M.B. Seddon, 11 August 1985, 2 km SW. of Carina, in a lake edge on rocky bottom with patches of *Phragmites* and *Potamogeton*.

Remarks. — There is some variation in outline and in convexity. Sometimes the shell is more rounded. Often the beaks are completely flat (figs. 1 and 2). The sculpture is rather constant. The relative convexity varies individually and is not related to shell-length. Within the genus the C.i. varies from 20 to 70. *P. maasseni* is the most compressed species of the genus, its C.i. varying from 20 to 30 as the following measurements of random paratypes show:

L	H	D	C.i.	L	H	D	C.i.
2.9	2.5	1.3	26	1.9	1.7	0.75	22
2.4	2.1	1.0	24	1.9	1.6	0.8	25
2.3	2.0	1.05	26	1.85	1.65	1.0	30
2.2	1.9	0.9	24	1.75	1.45	0.75	26
2.1	1.8	0.95	26	1.6	1.3	0.6	23
2.0	1.7	0.7	20	1.5	1.2	0.6	25

The occasionally present spaced ribs around the beaks (fig. 4) suggest affinity with *P. nitidum* Jenyns, 1832, which, however, generally has a glossy nepionic shell. On the other hand, the hinge-plate resembles that of small *P. casertanum* (Poli, 1791). Statistically, *P. maasseni* is still more compressed than *P. pseudosphaerium* Schlesch, 1947, of which the C.i. varies from 24 to 34.

P. maasseni has been collected together with *P. henslowanum* (Sheppard, 1823), *P. moitessierianum* Paladilhe, 1866, *P. subtruncatum* Malm, 1855, and *P. personatum* Malm, 1855. The presence of *P. nitidum* in Lake Prespa is not certain. The question arises whether *P. maasseni* might be a vicariant of *P. nitidum*, like *P. edlaueri* Kuiper, 1960, in Lake Ohrid.